

WHAT'S *New*



in the Metropolitan Police Department

*A weekly update for residents, visitors, and
workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, July 14, 2006

CHIEF DECLARES CITYWIDE CRIME EMERGENCY TO COMBAT RECENT SPIKE IN CRIME

Confronting a sharp increase in crime in recent weeks, Chief Ramsey this week announced a citywide "crime emergency" to enhance police visibility and combat neighborhood crime. Under the crime emergency, police commanders have greater flexibility to adjust officers' schedules and assign them to high-crime areas during peak times for criminal activity. Districts are increasing foot, bicycle and scooter patrols, and more officers will be working in uniform. The Chief is also expanding the redeployment program, in which officers in most specialized units and administrative assignments are regularly assigned to neighborhood patrols. Ramsey said the crime emergency is designed to reverse a spike in crime as the summer begins. There were 14 homicides during the first 12 days of July, as well as double-digit increases in robberies and serious assaults over the past 30 days. To complement police efforts, the Chief encouraged residents, business owners and others to get more actively involved in crime prevention efforts, by attending PSA meetings, joining Neighborhood Watch and citizen patrols, and providing information to the police. The Chief is also asking other criminal justice agencies and city departments to step up their efforts to combat crime and the underlying conditions that contribute to crime. The Department will evaluate the crime emergency after approximately 30 days.

① Read the news release at:
<http://app.mpd.cdc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=490000>

① The Chief announced there will be emergency PSA meetings throughout the city, to explain the crime emergency and generate more public involvement in community policing. Learn more about ways to get involved at: http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,3,q,548369,mpdcNav_GID,1530.asp

① In an effort to generate more tips from the public, the Chief announced the reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction in any robbery is being increased to up to \$10,000; the previous reward was up to \$5,000. Details at: http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1243,q,560024,mpdcNav_GID,1533.asp

TWENTY-ONE NEW OFFICERS JOIN NEIGHBORHOOD PATROLS IN DC

As the citywide crime emergency gets under way, police patrols in DC neighborhoods are getting a boost. Executive Assistant Chief Michael Fitzgerald on Friday swore in the MPDC's 21 newest police officers - members of Recruit Class 2005-7. The officers recently completed approximately 24 weeks of academic, physical and tactical training at the MPDC's Maurice T. Turner Jr., Institute of Police Science. They received their badges during graduation ceremonies at the training academy in Southwest. The new officers are being detailed to various police districts, where they will be assigned to Police Service Area patrols. In his remarks to the new officers, Executive Assistant Chief Fitzgerald told them that while the current crime emergency may be a short-term response to crime in DC, they will need to bring a sense of urgency and purpose to their jobs every day. "While this particular crime emergency declaration will pass, it does remind us that, to be effective in the long run, we need to maintain that focus - that sense of urgency - in everything we do, each and every day of our careers," Fitzgerald said. The newest officers are part of the MPDC's ongoing efforts maintain its sworn ranks at its fully authorized level 3,800 sworn members.

① The DC Council this past week approved legislation that would ultimately add 350 more officers to the MPDC. The Council had already approved an additional 100 officers for the fiscal year beginning in October.

① Know someone who is interested in becoming a sworn member of the MPDC? Get details, including an online application form, at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1230,q,538009.asp>

GAY AND LESBIAN LIASON UNIT RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL “INNOVATIONS” AWARD

For their work in reaching out to an underserved community and creating a model for community policing, the MPDC's Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit has been awarded the prestigious “Innovations in American Government Award.” Officials at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government presented the honor, which includes a \$100,000 award, during a July 10 ceremony in DC. The GLLU is one of only seven programs nationally to be selected from more than 1,000 applicants for the awards. Often called the “Oscars” of government, the Innovations in American Government Award is a program of the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard and is administered in partnership with the Council for Excellence in Government. Headed by Sergeant Brett Parson, the GLLU regularly works with other police units to deal with crimes committed by and against members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities. Their work involves much more than community relations. By focusing on the three pillars of community policing — focused law enforcement, neighborhood partnerships and systemic crime prevention — the GLLU has helped to empower DC's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities and make these communities safer. Mayor Williams honored the GLLU during his weekly press briefing. “MPD's Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit is a model of collaboration and teamwork, and I couldn't be more proud of the work that they do,” the Mayor said. The \$100,000 award will be used to advance the GLLU's work and to help replicate similar efforts in other cities.

CHAMPS AWARDS CEREMONY RECOGNIZES MPDC'S OFFICERS OF THE MONTH FOR JULY

Earlier this year, Officers Willie Harris, Don Marshall and Winfred Mundle of the First District were working the evening tour of duty, conducting business checks in PSA 106 in Southeast. When officers entered a store at approximately 3:40 pm, Officer Marshall saw a subject looking at a greeting card. He immediately recognized the subject from a prior arrest, as well as an MPDC “wanted bulletin” that had been distributed internally. The bulletin indicated that the subject was wanted in connection with a homicide that occurred in Potomac Gardens in February 2006, and had one felony warrant and one misdemeanor warrant outstanding as well. Officers Harris, Marshall and Mundle immediately detained the subject without incident. A routine computer check confirmed his wanted status. He was then placed under arrest and transported for processing. The capture of this suspect was a major break in the Potomac Gardens homicide case under investigation by Violent Crimes detectives. For their alertness and skill in apprehending a dangerous suspect, the three 1D officers were recognized during this month's CHAMPS Awards ceremony. They were among 15 MPDC members who were honored for exceptional service.

NEWS & NOTES

National Night Out Reminder. On Tuesday, August 1, DC will celebrate National Night Out against crime, with a variety of crime prevention events scheduled in all seven police districts. Residents are encouraged to come out, meet their neighbors and PSA officers, and get involved in community crime prevention. For details on NNO events citywide, go to http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1242,q,547053,mpdcNav_GID,1541.asp.

40 Days of Increased Peace. Young people and their families are encouraged to get involved in another important crime prevention event that continues through the summer. The “40 Days of Increased Peace” celebration includes youth-focused events and activities throughout the city. Details at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1239,q,557371.asp>.

Chat with the Chief on July 18. Chief Ramsey discusses public safety issues and takes phone calls from listeners during his monthly “Chatting with the Chief” program on WHUR 96.3-FM, on Tuesday, July 18, from 7:15-7:30 pm.

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with Crime-reports.com.

① Read more at:

<http://app.mpdc.dc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=488000>

① Learn more about the mission, organization and work of the GLLU at:

<http://www.gaydc.net/gllu>

① For more information about the Innovations in American Government Awards, go to:

<http://www.ashinstitute.harvard.edu/Ash/awards.htm>

① Read about all of their outstanding actions at:

http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1234,q,560465,mpdcNav_GID,1544.asp

① CHAMPS, Capital Hotels Award Metropolitan Police Service, is a monthly awards program sponsored by the Hotel Association of Washington, DC. The July awards luncheon was hosted by the Embassy Suites, Convention Center in Northwest.

DATA BOX

Homicides as of 7/14/06
◆ 2006: 95
◆ 2005: 94
◆ % Change: +1.1%
◆ Closure Rate: 45.3% (43 closures)

Adult Arrests week end. 7/8/06
◆ Total: 794
◆ Weapons: 19
◆ Robbery: 9
◆ Unauthorized Use of Vehicles: 8
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 33
◆ Narcotics: 136

Juvenile Activity week end. 7/8/06
◆ Total Arrests: 57
◆ Robbery: 8
◆ Weapons: 1
◆ Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 11
◆ Curfew Violators: 186

Firearm Recoveries as of 7/12/06
◆ July: 39
◆ 2006 Total: 1,219

Traffic Fatalities as of 7/14/06
◆ 2006: 23
◆ 2005: 23
◆ % Change: Unchanged

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